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FOWEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1951

J.G.S. TURNER,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Fowey

Ladies and Gentleman,

I have the honour to present the Annual
Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough
for the year 1951.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Armstrong
the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector and to his staff for their
work. Thanks are due also to Mr. Gatley and his Deputy for their
help in carrying on the work of the Borough after Mr. Armstrong's
departure. I thank also Members of the Public Health Committee
for their interest and support.

I have the honour to be, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

J.G.S. TURNER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

Area (in acres).....2979.
 Population(estimated mid-year)..2234.
 Number of inhabited houses.....782.
 Rateable value.....£18,303.
 Product of a Penny Rate.....£ 73/2/6.

Live Births -----	<u>Rate/1000 Population</u>				
	Male -----	Female -----	Total -----	Fowey -----	Eng & Wales -----
Legitimate	12	15			
Illegitimate	0	1	28	12.5	

For comparative purposes rate corrected
 for age and sex distribution

13.8 15.5.

Still Births -----

Legitimate	0	0			
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	0.36

Deaths (all causes)
 ----- 17

13 30 13.4

For comparative purposes rate corrected
 for age and sex distribution

10.2 12.5

Rate/1000 Total Births

Maternal Deaths -----

0 0 0 0.79

Rate/1000 Live Births

Infant Mortality(deaths under 1. yr. of age) -----

Legitimate	0	0			
Illegitimate	1	0	1	35.7	29.6

Deaths under 2 yrs. of age

(due to Enteritis & Diarrhoea)

0 0 0 0 1.4

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following is a list of the causes of death in accordance with the Abbreviated List of the International List of 1948.

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria... ..	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections.. ...	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm Stomach... ..	-	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	1	1	2
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes... ..	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system... ..	2	3	5
18. Coronary disease, angina... ..	1	1	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease.. ...	-	-	-
20. Other heart disease	4	2	6
21. Other circulatory disease	-	-	-
22. Influenza... ..	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia... ..	1	-	1
24. Bronchitis	3	-	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	-	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis enteritis & diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.. ...	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	1	1	2
33. Motor Vehicles Accidents	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	3	-	3
35. Suicide... ..	-	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
. All Causes	17	13	30

The following short table gives the percentage distribution of ages at death

Age group at death	Males	Females
0 -1	5.9	-
1 - 59	29.4	30.7
60- 69	17.7	15.4
70 - 79	41.2	23.1
80 - 89	5.9	15.4
90	0.0	15.4

The single infant death was due to bronchopneumonia.

SECTION A.

Area(in acres) 2979. The district consists of the estuarine town of Fowey with a large rural background. The town is very popular as a seaside resort and has many amenities. The port is concerned mainly with the export of china clay.

Population The estimated increase in population since last year is 36 persons. During the summer months the town becomes very congested with large numbers of visitors.

Number of inhabited houses The number of inhabited houses is 782. The rateable value is £18, 303, giving a Penny Rate of £73.2.6.

Meteorological data No data available

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services

Public Health Officers

(a) Medical Officer of Health J. Turner M.B., Ch.B.
D.P.H., 1.1.51 - 31.12.51.

(b) Sanitary Inspector (Part Time)
J.W. Armstrong A.R.S.I. 1.1.51 - 18.8.51

Laboratory Facilities

All investigations are carried out at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary Truro, where material is sent for investigation.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin

A supply is maintained at the Health Area Office, St. Austell, and is obtainable by Medical Practitioners on request.

Ambulance Service

The ambulance service is provided from the main centre at St. Austell, and in addition Fowey has its own ambulance which operates in the evenings and at week-ends. The following figures give some idea of the work done by the St. Austell centre. It will be realised that Fowey is responsible for about one twentieth of this total.

	<u>Patients</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Ambulance.....	2342.....	51,921.
Utilicon.....	4522.....	68,971.
Hospital Car Services.....	1146	16,812.
Fowey Ambulance.....	64.....	2,291.

Thanks are due to the St. John's Brigade for their service, to Mrs. Batchelor, the Organiser of the Hospital Car Service, and to the many ladies and gentlemen who provided car transport at all times on request.

Nursing in the Home

There is one District Nurse - Midwife - Health Visitor for the area.

Domestic Help Service

The establishment is the equivalent of two full-time helps. A total of 18 persons were aided of whom 6 were maternity cases. Thanks are due to Mrs. Dando and to Mr. Gatley for their administration of this service.

After Care

There were no tuberculosis persons in receipt of after care. Children discharged from Hospital are followed up by the District Nurse.

Maternity & Child Welfare

It has not been possible to establish a child welfare clinic, and owing to the small numbers it is doubtful if it is advisable. This causes no hardship as all mothers and children are visited in their homes by the nurse.

Expectant mothers attend the clinics in St. Austell.

Hospitals

The town has a small 13 bedded hospital. Patients requiring specialised treatment go to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro or to Redruth.

Clinics

Practically all the special clinics are held in St. Austell, either at the hospital or at Moreland Road.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Conditions in the District

Water

Some shortage was experienced during the summer months. Supplies are dependent on shallow springs whose yield falls greatly when there is rainfall. The presence of summer visitors with excessive demands for baths greatly depletes the limited supplies. It is unlikely that there will be any improvement until the de Lank scheme comes into being.

Only part of the town supply was chlorinated, and that portion not chlorinated was found to be unsafe for drinking. All users in this section of the town, which included the harbour area, were advised to boil their water.

Practically the whole area has a mains supply available and 708 properties are connected. Of the remainder of the area Polkerris has a small private supply with 22 properties connected. Polmear has a well and pump supply to 11 properties, and the St. Austell mains supply to a further three. Hambland has a well and pump supply to five cottages. Elsewhere there are 8 farms and 5 scattered cottages with a variety of supplies.

SECTION D.

Housing

There is still a serious shortage of houses with an active waiting list of 194 families, details of which are as follows: -

(i)	Number without separate houses...	36
(ii)	" unmarried persons...	21
(iii)	" of houses unfit or overcrowded ...	31
(iv)	" requiring houses for various reasons..	
	e.g. work, notice to quit etc....	49
(v)	" from other areas who wish to live in	
	Fowey ...	57

The Council now own 111 permanent houses and have in addition 20 converted properties. No houses were built during 1951.

SECTION E.

Food

Milk

There are two retailers who are not producers and two retailer producers. Most of the milk sold in the town is obtained from the depot at Lostwithiel.

Three cases of dirty bottles were investigated and four visits were made to the premises.

Meat

Meat supplies are obtained from the slaughter house at St. Austell. Numerous inspections of food-preparing premises were carried out and generally satisfactory conditions found to exist. Most of the proprietors of cafes and hotels accepted informal requests for improvements and gave effect to the advice given. All the public houses in the town are satisfactory.

Ice cream samples were taken and found to be of good quality.

Drainage Sewage

All the drainage discharges along the foreshore at a number of different points, and owing to silting, considerable trouble has been experienced with choking of sewers.

Public Scavenging

There is a regular scavenging service through the built-up area twice a week. Outlying districts are scavenged fortnightly and farms monthly.

Disinfection

Five premises were disinfected, four for cases of infectious diseases and one for vermin.

Rats & Mice

Regular surveys were carried out for rodent infestations. This required 79 inspections. One property was treated for mice infestation.

Routine inspections and treatment of sewers and of the refuse dump were carried out.

Nuisances

19 cases of nuisances and complaints were dealt with during the year and remedied as a result of informal action.

Conveniences

Seven public conveniences serve the district and one is in course of construction.

Bakehouses

There is one bakehouse in the town, which, whilst old, is well maintained.

Condemned Foodstuffs

12 tins French ham.
4 tins shoulder ham
8 tinned hams
3 tins milk
2 tins apricots
4 jars apricot jam
1 tin Pork Brawn
1 tin Beef Loaf
1 tin beetroot
1 tin spinach
6 tins soup
4 tins marmalade
4 tins jam
1 tin red cherries.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received:-

Disease	Number of Cases	Fowey 1950	1951	Rate for 1,000 population England & Wales 1951.
Measles	26	0.45	11.6	14.1
Whooping Cough	9	0.91	4.3	3.9
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	5.01	0.4	0.03

There were no deaths reported as due to infectious diseases. The case of poliomyelitis is surprising in view of the outbreak of the two previous years, indicating that there was some residual infection in the district. The case was in contact with a child who eight days previously had a mild illness which might have been abortive poliomyelitis.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following table gives the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria up to 31st. December 1951:-

Age at 31.12.51 i.e. Born in year	Under 1. 1951	1. 50	2 49	3 48	4 47	5-9 42-46	10-14 37-41	Total under 15 yrs.
Number immunised	0	18	13	27	22	34	18	132
Estimated Mid-year Population		159				257		596
Percentage immunised		50.2%				21.9%		33.3%

During the year 44 children were given a full immunisation course and 129 received boosting doses to enhance immunity.

The degree of protection is almost certainly greater than that shown, particularly in the school age group, but there is little doubt that the general level of immunity is falling to nearer the lower level of safety.

Tuberculosis

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of cases and deaths for 1951.

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -19 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-24 yrs	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-34 yrs	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-44 yrs	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45-54 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55& Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0

The total number of cases on the register at 31st. December 1951 were as follows:-

	Male	Female
Pulmonary	4	6
Non-pulmonary	3	0

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937, 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	3		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	11	8		
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (including out workers' premises)				
Total	13	11		

Number of cases in which defects were found

No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred	
			To. H.M.	By H.M.
			Inspector.	Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient-	-	-	-	-
(b) Defective-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

